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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/679,487	10/07/2003	Gudjon G. Karason	KARA3003 /JEK /JJC	4040
23364	7590	09/22/2005	EXAMINER	
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC 625 SLATERS LANE FOURTH FLOOR ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			DAVIS, ROBERT B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1722	

DATE MAILED: 09/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/679,487

Applicant(s)

KARASON, GUDJON G.

Examiner

Robert B. Davis

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 05/10/04.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kristinsson (5,885,509: figures 1-14; column 4, lines 38-51 and column 5, lines 1-15) taken together with Coonan, III (hereinafter "Coonan"; 5,108,456: figures 4-6; column 1, lines 25-45, and column 4, lines 37-55).

Kristinsson discloses a prosthesis socket direct casting device (10) comprising: a base (12) having a forward side (14), an elongated flexible annular bladder (28) having an interior casting area (38) carried by the base (12) and extendable from the forward side (14) thereof, the base (12) including air passages (18) in communication with the interior of the bladder (28), the bladder having an open end (40) opposite the end connected to the base (12). The bladder is made of material that is relatively inextensible and reads on distention limiting structure. The reference does not disclose a plurality of circumferentially spaced expandable chambers extending generally along the length of the casting area.

Coonan discloses a prosthetic appliance (10) for a residual limb (16) having an inflatable socket (14), wherein the inflatable socket has three individually inflatable

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chambers (18a, 18b and 18c). The reference is an improvement over a bladder having a single chamber for the purpose of allowing the amputee to individually adjust the pressure within the socket to achieve the greatest degree of comfort in the securement of the prosthetic. The reference recognizes the need to allow personalized adjustment of a plurality of chambers on a residual limb due to the variation in shapes of the limbs.

It would have been obvious at the time of the invention to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the apparatus of Kristinsson by providing a plurality of individually inflatable chambers as disclosed by Coonan for the purpose of allowing individual adjustment of the chambers to fit different residual limbs comfortably. The liner for a prosthetic clearly deals with the similar problem of conforming accurately to a residual limb and is thus within the purview of one of ordinary skill in the art.

In regards to claim 4, it would have been further obvious to provide a number of chambers greater than three for the purpose of attaining a customized fit of the inflatable member against a residual limb.

In regards to the method, Kristinsson discloses positioning a suction socket (66) upon the residual limb (62) and positioning a curable liner (72) between the suction socket and the inflatable bladder (28). The suction socket includes a locking pin (68), which is attached to a locking member in the base (12) to retain the distal end during compression of the limb by the inflatable bladder. Kristinsson does not disclose using a bladder having a plurality of individually inflatable chambers.

Coonan discloses a prosthetic appliance (10) for a residual limb (16) having an inflatable socket (14), wherein the inflatable socket has three individually inflatable

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chambers (18a, 18b and 18c). The reference is an improvement over a bladder having a single chamber for the purpose of allowing the amputee to individually adjust the pressure within the socket to achieve the greatest degree of comfort in the securement of the prosthetic. The reference recognizes the need to allow personalized adjustment of a plurality of chambers on a residual limb due to the variation in shapes of the limbs.

It would have been obvious at the time of the invention to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the method of Kristinsson by providing a bladder having a plurality of individually inflatable chambers as disclosed by Coonan for the purpose of allowing individual adjustment of the chambers to fit different residual limbs comfortably. The liner for a prosthetic clearly deals with the similar problem of conforming accurately to a residual limb and is thus within the purview of one of ordinary skill in the art.

Conclusion

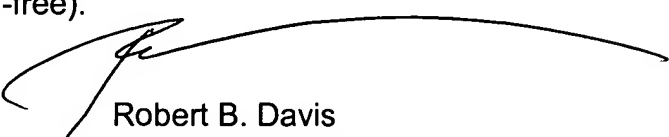
3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert B. Davis whose telephone number is 571-272-1129. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on 571-272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Robert B. Davis
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1722

9/17/05